Lotto
2, 5, 32, 35, 39, 42
Sat. jackpot: $2 million
Wed. jackpot: $2.2 million

Cash 5
1, 7, 12, 17, 32
Drawings are held Monday through Saturday.

Powerball
8, 15, 17, 32, 48
Powerball: 24
Powerplay: 4
Sat. jackpot: $62.8 million
Wed. jackpot: $72 million

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

METRO

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Reading scores jump at struggling schools

Ivywild, Hunt and Adams show improvement on CSAP

By SHARI CHANEY
THE GAZETTE

Several schools that have been under scrutiny for low academic achievement showed dramatic improvements in reading test scores released Friday.

Ivywild Elementary School in Colorado Springs School District 11 made the biggest gains of area schools.

D-11 officials had recommended closing Ivywild next fall, but school closure decisions have been postponed indefinitely.

In 2004, 25 percent of Ivywild's third-graders scored as proficient or advanced on the Colorado Student Assessment Program test for reading. This year, that number jumped to 67 percent.

The scores, released by the Colorado Department of Education, have not been reviewed for accuracy, officials said, and the scores are preliminary until officially released in July, along with CSAP test scores for other grades and subjects.

The state released the preliminary results to the public Friday, but school districts got their results earlier.

Unofficial or not, students and staff at Ivywild celebrated when they got the news Thursday. There was dancing, cheering and Kudos granola bars for third-graders.

"I am so proud of them," Principal Libby Bailey said.

District 11's Hunt and Adams elementary schools have also been mentioned as possible schools to close and also made big gains in CSAP third-grade reading scores. Hunt jumped more than 66 percent to have 80 percent of students at proficient or advanced levels, and Adams jumped nearly 80 percent to have 59 percent of students at those ranks.

With the gains, Hunt, Ivywild and Adams are in the middle of the pack of D-11 schools. Top performers included Trailblazer, Jackson, Chipeta and Steele elementary schools.

Elsewhere, Miami-Yoder Elementa-

SEE CSAP • PAGE 3

PROTESTERS SPEND 2ND DAY OUTSIDE FOCUS

MARK REIS, THE GAZETTE

Members of Virginia-based Soulforce silently hold hands Monday on the group's second day of protests outside Focus on the Family headquarters in Colorado Springs. About 125 members of the group attended the protest. A gay man and his parents from Minnesota were arrested on suspicion of trespassing after trying to deliver letters of protest to James Dobson. Story, Page 2

Russell to put spotlight on the arts

School wants to draw kids from other districts

By SHARI CHANEY
THE GAZETTE

In an effort to attract students to Colorado Springs School District 11 and to offer a unique curriculum, Russell Middle School will focus on the arts beginning next fall.

Charles M. Russell Middle School of the Performing Arts, near Academy Boulevard and Flintridge Drive, will offer beginning to advanced classes in voice, drama, dance, piano, band, orchestra, visual art and forensics, Principal Jeanice Swift said.

Those classes are in place at Russell, she said, but the school will add advanced classes and place students based on ability, not grade level. That will allow students to learn or move on as they progress.

Any student attending Russell can take a beginning arts course, Swift said.

Students who want to take an advanced class will audition.

A standard middle school curriculum also will continue.

The school is hoping to draw students from nearby districts, including Academy School District 20's The da Vinci Academy, an arts-emphasis school for students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Students who want to continue with the arts in high school will be able to move on to the Wasson High School Performing Arts Program that also begins next fall.

Research shows that students involved in the arts have increased attendance, increased involvement in school activities and increased academic achievement, Swift said.

The arts will be a schoolwide emphasis. Stacia Cushing, who teaches voice, piano and music theory, said students taking a class in the wood shop might become the stage crew for a drama production, helping build sets and scenery, for example.

It was about 18 months ago, Swift said, when district officials asked schools to find their strengths and build on them. It was an easy decision to build the arts program, she said.

"We're pretty jazzed," Swift said.

JERILEE BENNETT, THE GAZETTE

Leslie Pearce helps middle-schooler Hannah Wilfong, left, with ballet moves Monday during a class at Russell Middle School. The school will offer a curriculum focused on performing arts next fall.

DETAILS

Students and families interested in Charles M. Russell Middle School of the Performing Arts can learn about the school at an open house at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. The school is at 3825 E. Montebello Drive West. For information or for an application, call 328-5200 or stop by the school.

'I killed my mother,' son told his father in hospital

By ANSLEE WILLETT
THE GAZETTE

Nathan DeGeare tried to prepare himself for what he had to say, telling his father that he needed strength.

His dad held on to him.

"I killed my mother," he said.

Minutes later, the 27-year-old tried to take it back, telling his father that stabbing his mother had just been a dream, according to court papers released Monday.

Mary "Gwen" DeGeare, 60, bled to death after being stabbed several times in the chest and back, slicing her aorta, an autopsy by the El Paso County Coroner's Office showed Monday.

It's unknown when she was stabbed or when she died.

Her body was found in a bed about 12:15 p.m. Saturday after her psychologist asked Colorado Springs police to check on her at home in the 30 block of Sanford Road.

Officers found "a large butcher-type knife" sub-

SEE STABBING • PAGE 2

CORRECTIONS CLARIFICATIONS

The Gazette corrects errors of fact in this space. If you find mistakes, please call 636-0266 during business hours.

- The play "12 Angry Men," listed in Saturday's Religion Calendar, has been postponed. The new dates will be announced when they are available.
- B.J. Thomas will play May 20 at the Double Eagle Hotel and Casino in Cripple Creek. An incorrect date was listed in the Concert Calendar on Page 22 of Friday's GO! section.

Volunteer's travels have kept her inspired

By LISA MARTÍNEZ
THE GAZETTE

While some teenagers think about the latest fashions, dating and cramming for tests, Allison Carrick focuses on volunteerism.

Student council. Leadership committees. Student mentor.

The Woodland Park High School senior has traveled to all seven continents and plans to return to a poverty-stricken region to help people less fortunate than she is.

"When you see people starving or living in conditions Americans think are appalling, it really opens your eyes," said Carrick, 17. "It makes me wonder what I could do later in my life."

With a 4.0 grade-point average, Carrick has excelled in school and activities.

She has served as class president since the eighth grade, and she is now student body president.

Carrick has helped organize several schoolwide programs such as Drive Smart, which teaches teenagers the importance of being safe drivers.

She is most proud of getting her student body involved with El Pomar Youth in Community Service program, which teaches leadership skills.

She wants to be a military attorney.

But no matter where her career takes her, Carrick hopes to be stationed in a place where she can make a difference in the community.

"It's inspiration for community service," she said of her travels.

"It makes you appreciate what you have. That's what I want in life."

CONTACT THE WRITER: 476-1669 or lmartinez@gazette.com

ALLISON CARRICK

Woodland Park High School

Parents: Tom and Ellen Carrick

What's next: University of Notre Dame on an Army ROTC scholarship. She'll study international business and law.

If you could travel back in time and change one historic event, what would it be and why?

"I wouldn't change anything. Human beings must live and learn. Something should and can be learned from all events in history. We should focus on what's to come and invent our future."

Other stuff:

Get RIEAL Colorado youth movement against tobacco; North Teller Build a Generation community coalition; New Principal Selection Committee student member; volunteer for Colorado Festival of World Theater; Student Council; National Honor Society; Key Club; El Pomar Youth in Community Service program.

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Family arrested at protest of Focus' stance on gays

By DEEDEE CORRELL
THE GAZETTE

A gay man and his parents were arrested Monday as they stepped around a barricade onto Focus on the Family's lawn, insisting on delivering a letter to James Dobson protesting his position on gay issues.

A crowd estimated by police at about 125 people silently stood by as Colorado Springs police handcuffed Jacob Reitan, 23, his mother Randi and father Philip on suspicion of trespassing.

The arrests ended the second day of protests by Soulforce, a Lynchburg, Va.-based network of volunteers that claims to employ "relentless nonviolence" to gain acceptance of gays among religious leaders. Focus on the Family, a national Christian media ministry, says homosexuality is incompatible with Christianity.

Soulforce members had pledged to commit civil disobedience Monday if not permitted onto the Focus campus.

Focus suspended public tours Monday and set up barricades, but it posted a representative at the entrance to accept protesters' letters. Focus leader Dobson was not in town.

Soulforce organizers said they made their point; Focus officials said their views remain unchanged.

A crowd of Soulforce supporters that police estimated at 700 rallied Sunday near Focus, seeking to end what they describe as poisonous rhetoric.

Monday's incident seemed carefully scripted by all involved. As the Reitans of Eden Prairie, Minn., approached the entrance, Den Patterson of Focus announced, "Focus on the Family is closed to all guests and visitors today."

"We have a letter we want to deliver to Dr. Dobson," Philip Reitan replied.

"We want to show them what a family is supposed to be," said his son, Jacob. "I am so proud to be standing here with a mother and father who accept me as a gay man."

Colorado Springs police Sgt. Pat Rigdon then told the Reitans: "If you do come onto the property, you will be arrested."

Randi Reitan then read aloud her letter: "As Christians, we must teach God's love for all his beloved children." When she finished, she said, "I want to bring this to Dr. Dobson now."

Rigdon repeated his warning, then the three stepped forward. As the sergeant announced they were under arrest, they hugged then held out their wrists to be cuffed. As they climbed into a police van, protesters sang "Amazing Grace," then filed away.

Afterward, Focus held a news conference, at which officials reiterated points they made Sunday: They encourage parents to love gay children but also offer options for change.

Tom Minnery, Focus' head of public policy, said employees will read and provide "loving, kind" responses to the letters written by protesters.

Police said the Reitans — who Soulforce organizers said have been arrested at least four times at similar events — were taken to a police station, where they were served a court summons, then released.

The maximum penalty for trespassing is a $500 fine, 90 days in jail or both.

STABBING: AMR didn't know mom lay dead upstairs

FROM PAGE 1

merged in a bathtub full of water. The tip of the knife was bent.

Nathan DeGeare, arrested Sunday on suspicion of first-degree murder, was upset with how his mother was treating him, an arrest affidavit says.

They were supposed to attend counseling together at 11 a.m. Friday.

When they didn't arrive by 11:15 a.m., the psychologist called their home. Nathan DeGeare, sounding distraught, said his mom wasn't there, the court documents say.

The psychologist asked if he needed help; the man said yes but that he was unable to call 911, so she called for him.

Police weren't sent to the home for the medical call, Sgt. Scott Whittington said.

Nathan DeGeare, who had lived with his mom about a year, was sitting just inside the front door waiting for American Medical Response paramedics. He told them he wasn't feeling good.

Unknown at the time to the psychologist and the paramedics, Nathan DeGeare's mother lay dead in an upstairs bedroom.

An emergency medical technician told police that Nathan DeGeare had recent superficial cuts on his wrists that were no longer bleeding, the court documents say. He also told police he didn't think AMR staff walked through the house when they picked him up.

"It's not something we would typically do," AMR spokesman Doug Moore said Monday. "The only reason we would go farther into the house than where the patient was is if we were asked to get a personal belonging like a medical bottle. We'd have to get permission from the patient."

Nathan DeGeare was taken to Penrose Hospital for a mental health evaluation, then placed on a 72-hour hold in the behavior health ward at Penrose-St. Francis Hospital.

He told hospital staff Friday evening that he had thoughts of stabbing his mom, then said it was only "a bad dream," the court papers say.

He told his dad Saturday "he was upset with his mother because she would not leave him alone, was always interfering with his activities and would not give him his independence," Colorado Springs police detective Derek Graham wrote in the affidavit.

Gwen DeGeare's psychologist grew more concerned by Saturday afternoon when she hadn't heard back from her patient after leaving two voice mails Friday.

She called police to ask them to check on her.

Gwen DeGeare's death is the fifth homicide this year in Colorado Springs.

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